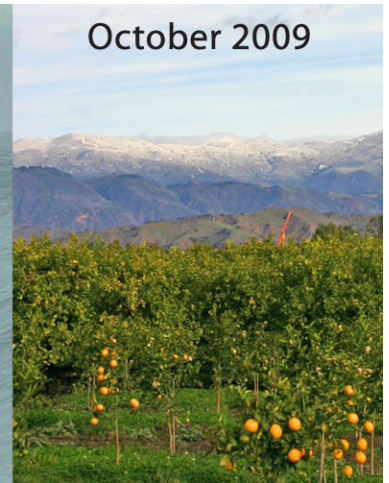




# NAVA *News*

Assemblymember Pedro Nava  
Representing District 35

October 2009



Visit our website at [www.asm.ca.gov/nava](http://www.asm.ca.gov/nava)

## Planning and Conservation League Awards 2009 Legislator of the Year to Pedro Nava

Assemblymember Pedro Nava has been selected as the Planning and Conservation League's (PCL) 2009 Legislator of the Year for his efforts to fight expanded oil drilling off the California Coast and for pursuing an oil severance tax. The award is given every year to a legislator who has made an outstanding contribution to California's environmental laws and policy-making in the previous session.

"I am honored to receive this award for my efforts to protect the natural environment and for continuing to fight new offshore oil drilling," said Nava. "For more than 40 years the Planning and Conservation League has been a strong voice for the preservation and restoration of California's environment and I am humbled to receive this recognition."

According to the award letter to Nava from PCL, the award is being given in recognition of Assemblymember Nava's "leadership in defeating PXP's proposal and for being a champion for an oil severance tax."

"PXP" refers to a proposal brought by the Texas-based oil company Plains Exploration and Production Company to drill in California Sanctuary waters for the first time since 1969. PXP's proposal was buoyed by early environmental support from local Santa Barbara environmental groups. However, following revelations by the State Lands Commission, the State Attorney General's Office, and from Assemblymember Nava that the supposed environmental benefits were unenforceable and not realistic, most of the non-oil industry support faded.

Nava, with the help of others in the State Assembly including Wesley Chesbro, Nancy Skinner, John Pérez, Karen Bass, and Dave Jones, were able to build a large coalition of 94 environmental groups including the Planning and Conservation League, the Sierra Club, the Natural Resources Defense Council, Surfrider Foundation, Environment California, Audubon and many more, to oppose the ill-conceived drilling proposal.

"Assemblymember Nava's work to protect California's coast by opposing the PXP proposal was excellence in action," said PCL Executive Director Traci Sheehan. "We are pleased to honor him with the Legislator of the Year Award for his leadership and innovative thinking."

The Planning and Conservation League is a statewide alliance of individuals and conservation organizations united to protect California's environment through legislative and administrative action. For more than 40 years, PCL has fought to develop a body of environmental laws in California that is the best in the United States. PCL staff review virtually every environmental bill that comes before the California Legislature each year.

### Also in This Issue:

**Scientists Agree with  
Nava's Position on  
Protection for the  
Santa Barbara Coast**

**Governor Signs  
Legislation to Crack  
Down on Polluters**

**Join Us for Our  
Business EXPO  
Nov. 19, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Cabrillo Pavilion Arts  
Center in Santa  
Barbara**

**Domestic Violence  
Awareness Month  
Highlights a Serious  
Nationwide Problem**

**Ventura County  
Collaborative Seeks  
Citizen Planning Input**

## Scientists Agree with Nava's Position on Protection for the Santa Barbara Coast

National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) scientists conducted an independent, third-party, unbiased review of proposed new offshore oil lease proposals and emphasized the fragility of the Santa Barbara coastline, calling for additional protections, including the creation of a buffer zone.

A recent draft report from NOAA recommended a drastic reduction to the Bush-era coastal energy development plan. In recommending against the expansion of new drilling and proposing the establishment of buffer zones around the Southern California Ecological Preserve off Santa Barbara, NOAA scientists cited risks to coastal ecosystems and marine life.

"I couldn't agree more with the recommendations made by the NOAA scientists," said Assemblymember Pedro Nava. "I have always maintained that more new drilling is the last thing we need off the Santa Barbara coast. The PXP proposal about three miles from our beaches makes no sense at all. The waters of the Santa Barbara coast are some of the most biologically diverse in the world. Any new drilling would not only endanger this natural treasure, it would put the local tourism and fishing industries at risk."



## Governor Signs Legislation to Crack Down on Polluters

*AB 305 Sponsored by California District Attorneys Association and Nava*



Photo Courtesy of SB County Fire Department

Assemblymember Pedro Nava and the California District Attorneys Association (CDAA) announced that Assembly Bill 305, which allows prosecutors to seek jail time for polluters, was signed into law by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

"Increased enforcement will provide prosecutors the tools to crack down on polluters who are not proactive in responding to spills," said Nava. "As a former prosecutor, I know how important it is to send a strong message to polluters. Companies that handle hazardous materials need to work diligently to ensure that the environment and the public are safe or there will be serious consequences."

Under AB 305, polluters who fail to report a hazardous materials spill, or who make a false or misleading report about a spill, can be sentenced to up to one year in jail. The previous penalty was a maximum fine of \$50,000. This new measure will subject violators to imprisonment in the county jail, or both a fine and imprisonment.

"The California District Attorneys Association is proud to be working with Mr. Nava on this important environmental legislation," W. Scott Thorpe of the CDAA said. "This bill will increase the ability of district attorneys across the state to prosecute those who violate hazardous materials laws."

Additionally, AB 305 extends the statute of limitations for violations from one to five years to make it similar to other laws related to hazardous substances and hazardous waste. Companies that handle hazardous materials are required to develop a Hazardous Material Release Response Plan, submit hazardous material inventory and management information, and immediately report any release or threatened release of a hazardous material.

This measure will give District Attorneys enhanced tools to go after polluters who fail to develop and file plans and report any hazardous material release, and bring much-needed protections to the public and first responders such as law enforcement and firefighters.



# Join Us for Our Business EXPO!

The 4th Annual Santa Barbara County Business Resource EXPO will be held on Thursday, Nov. 19 from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the Cabrillo Pavilion Arts Center in Santa Barbara. Assemblymember Pedro Nava is partnering with the Santa Barbara Region Chamber of Commerce, the Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce, and the Carpinteria Valley Chamber of Commerce. The event is free of charge to all participants.

The EXPO will bring valuable resources and information to the Santa Barbara business community regarding how to do business with federal, state and local governments. Additionally, many public and private organizations will be on hand to provide information and resources to business and entrepreneurs on how to grow and prosper during these challenging economic times.

"I believe it is important to support our local business community because they are vital to the economic well-being of Santa Barbara County," Nava said. "Every year there are millions of dollars in contracting opportunities available to the local business community and prospective business owners through local, state and federal governments. My EXPO will show how to access these opportunities."

To RSVP or for more information please call Assemblymember Nava's office at (805) 483-9808.



## Domestic Violence Awareness Month Highlights a Serious Nationwide Problem

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. A set of alarming statistics reinforces the need to concentrate on this growing problem. According to The Domestic Violence Awareness Project:

- **Nearly one in every four women are beaten or raped by a partner during adulthood.**
- **Approximately 15.5 million children are exposed to domestic violence every year.**
- **The cost of intimate partner violence annually exceeds \$5.8 billion, including \$4.1 billion in direct health care expenses.**
- **Domestic violence has been estimated to cost employers in the U.S. up to \$13 billion each year.**

Fortunately, we have several local groups set up to help.

"In the 35th Assembly District, both Domestic Violence Solutions for Santa Barbara County and Interface Children Family Services in Ventura County do excellent work with families in crisis," Assemblymember Nava said. "We all need to support their efforts."

To contact Domestic Violence Solutions for Santa Barbara County call:  
Santa Barbara (805) 964-5245  
Santa Ynez Valley (805) 686-4390  
Website: [www.dvsolutions.org](http://www.dvsolutions.org)

In Ventura County, please contact Interface Children Family Services:  
1-800-339-9597  
Website: [www.icfs.org](http://www.icfs.org)

If you are in danger, please call 911. The National Domestic Violence Hotline is 1-800-799-7233 or TTY 1-800-787-3224.



# Ventura County Collaborative Seeks Citizen Planning Input

Planning for the future growth and population of Ventura County has taken a highly collaborative approach through the outreach efforts of the Compact for a Sustainable Ventura County.

The Compact is a partnership of 10 cities and the county government, the Ventura Council of Governments, Ventura County Transportation Commission, the Ventura County Civic Alliance, and the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District, along with the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). The group is hoping to chart the course for a future which SCAG estimates could contain 200,000 more people throughout the area by the year 2035.



According to baseline projections for 2035 on the group's website, the hours lost to traffic congestion will increase by 166 percent and carbon dioxide emissions from automobiles will go up 129 percent. We'll need almost \$1 billion in new local infrastructure projects to handle the population.

Members of the Compact have agreed to a series of guiding principles which include such things as transitioning toward renewable energy, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, reducing sprawl, maintaining housing equity, and encouraging a broad-based, competitive economy.

A series of workshops was held in September around Ventura County. Armed with maps of the county which tracked where development and protected open space lie, participants were given paper tokens for future housing and commercial areas, along with colored tapes for transit, freeways and hiking trails. The groups then set out to plan the county's future growth principles.

All input will be compiled and will help shape future planning decisions.

"I commend Compact for a Sustainable Ventura County's efforts toward planning for a bright future for our residents. The decisions we make today will have far-reaching impacts on the lives of the next generations," Assemblymember Nava said.

For a look at the Compact's efforts go to [www.venturacountycompact.org](http://www.venturacountycompact.org)

## Assemblymember Pedro Nava, 35th District, California

### District Offices:

Santa Barbara County

101 W. Anapamu Street Suite A • Santa Barbara, CA 93101 • Tel: (805) 564-1649 • Fax: (805) 564-1651

### Ventura County

201 E. Fourth Street Suite 209-A • Oxnard, CA 93030 • Tel: (805) 483-9808 • Fax: (805) 483-8182

### Capitol Office:

State Capitol • P.O. Box 942849 • Sacramento, CA 94249-0035 • Tel: (916) 319-2035 • Fax: (916) 319-2135